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Marginal Column

By ALASTAIR BUCHAN

THERE have been a number of pointers in the past few weeks to the serious, and indeed gloomy, view which the American Administration now takes of the war in Indo-China. This is reflected in several ways: in the decision of the Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, to explore the possibilities of a conference with Communist China on the specific issues of Korea and Indo-China through the medium of a five-power conference, to which he had previously been strongly opposed; in the swift dispatch last week of a number of U.S. technicians, to General Navare, the French commander in Indo-China; in the creation of a special command, including the Under-Secretaries of State and Defence, to review the situation there; and in the return of Lt. General John O'Daniel, the American Army commander in the Pacific, for consultations, following a special visit to Indo-China.

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WHAT depresses U.S. officials is not the possibility of an imminent military disaster in Indo-China — although this is not ruled out — but rather that there are no signs of progress. The Navarre Plan, which called for the pacification of the Cochin China area this winter, followed by a crushing blow at the Vietminh forces in the Red River Delta after the next monsoons, has been checkmated at almost every point. As President Eisenhower, with most uncharacteristic tactlessness, implied last week, the support of the Vietnamese for the campaign is lagging. And some U.S. officials have become critical of the basis of the French military plan in that it attemps to defeat Vietminh forces where they are strongest — rather than to cut off their steadily increasing flow of supplies from China.

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THE official U.S. position is that the Indo-China war must be fought to final victory, and that there is no possibility of creating a military stalemate and negotiating an armistice line as there was in Korea, because the strategic dispositions and nature of the terrain are quite different. What the U.S. Administration privately fears is that the present war of attrition, of which it bears two-thirds of the cost, will simply continue indefinitely, while the French will to fight grows steadily weaker, leading eventually either to a negotiated settlement, which in effect would enable Ho Chi Minh, the rebel leader, to take over the whole country in a few years; or to the United States itself assuming direct responsibility for operations.

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NO obvious solutions have occurred to officials in Washington. There is still the most intense reluctance to contemplate the dispatch of U.S. ground forces to Indo-China: the Defense Department has gone out of its way to emphasise that the Air Force technicians who are on their way to Indo-China are non-combatant mechanics. There have been rumours that the two U.S. divisions which are to be withdrawn from Korea might be sent there; but Senator William Knowland, the Republican leader in the Senate, was speaking for the Administration when he said last week that he could "give a categorical assurance that there is no intention to send American combat troops to Indo-China." The Chiefs of Staff are flatly opposed to any such commitment; while it would conflict with the Administration's policy of "disengagement" and reducing its military commitments and overheads.

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THE problem is clear; the solution is not: and it is presumably for this reason that Mr. Dulles has consented to the French demand to explore, through the medium of the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Molotov, the intentions of the Soviet Union and China with regard to Indo-China. Since the question of a five-Power conference is now a possibility, the U.S. State Department's reply to the recent Chinese invitation to resume the negotiations for the Korean political conference at Panmunjon will be held up pending final decisions at the Foreign Minister's conference in Berlin.

Washington, February 17.

BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

But inside we're warm because we've just made some delicious Mulled Wine Punch — like this:

- 8 cups Carmel Oriental Port
- 2 cup water
- 2 cup sugar
- 3 sticks cinnamon
- 12 whole allspice
- 2 lemons (sliced thin)
- 24 whole cloves

Combine sugar, water, cinnamon and allspice in saucepan. Place over low heat, bring to boiling point and simmer about 5 minutes. Pour over lemon slices studded with whole cloves and let stand half hour. Add the wine, heat very slowly to just under the boiling point. You may add boiling water to dilute the wine if desired. Serve hot in small cups. (Adv.)

All-German Units On Trade Asked; Parley Ends Today

BERLIN, Wednesday. — Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov proposed at the Big Four Foreign Ministers' Conference here today the setting up of two all-German committees, one to coordinate East-West German trade and financial relations, traffic and inter-Zonal border problems, and the second to help develop cultural, scientific and sports relations between the two Zones.

He also proposed that the Soviet Union, the U.S., Britain and France should agree on the strength and armament of the police forces in the two Zones.

Western spokesmen said after this evening's session, the twelfth on the German problem and the twenty-fifth of the Conference, that U.S. Secretary of State Dulles and British Foreign Secretary Eden had undertaken to study the proposals and would answer tomorrow.

All-Europe Pact

Mr. Molotov opened the meeting by reiterating his demands for Western acceptance of the Soviet proposal for setting up a 32-nation security organisation in Europe and barring the U.S. from any part in European defence.

Mr. Dulles replied that the Soviet plan would, by the withdrawal of U.S. forces, simply produce in Europe the same conditions that led to the Korean war.

The four Ministers agreed to continue the discussions on Germany during the second part of tomorrow's afternoon session, the last of the Conference.

They are to hold a further secret session on the Far East in the morning an open session in the afternoon on Austria, Germany and "any other business."

Informed sources said today that, during their two-hour secret session on the Far East this morning, East and West inched closer towards agreement.

Some Western diplomats were offering odds of six to four that agreement would be reached before the Foreign Ministers leave this city tomorrow night.

After some 12 hours of secret negotiations on a Far East peace conference, the situation was stated by informed Western diplomats to be as follows:

The West has proposed a conference in Geneva on April 15 to discuss a Korean peace settlement. The Big Four would invite People's China and other "directly interested parties."

Only on Asia

If this conference succeeds, another might follow on Indo-China with the three Associated States taking the places of North and South Korea.

But the Soviet Foreign Minister is understood to be standing firm on the following demands:

1. Although the conference would be about the Far East, participants would have the right to raise other problems as well;
2. People's China must participate in pre-conference arrangements and be one of the sponsoring powers.
3. The conference should set up its own agenda.

Goldmann Hits Refusal Of E. German Restitution

NEW YORK, Wednesday (INA). — The attitude of East Germany towards reparations for Israel and Jewish organisations was attacked yesterday by Dr. Nahum Goldmann at a press conference here.

At the same time, Dr. Goldmann praised the manner in which West Germany is implementing her agreement. There is ground to believe that should negotiations take place for the unification of Germany, the leaders of West Germany would insist on fulfilling their obligations, he stated.

Dr. Goldmann welcomed with reservations the statement of Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab that the Austrian Government was prepared to resume negotiations with Jewish organisations on the settlement of the claims of Nazi victims.

He also reported that the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, of which he is President, will soon receive $6m. or $8m. from Israel as its first annual share of the $107m. it will get under the German settlement.

VIENNA JEWS ASKED TO DISCUSS CLAIMS

VIENNA, Wednesday (INA). — An official of the Finance Ministry has invited the General Secretary of the Jewish Community, Mr. Wilhelm Krell, to start discussions on the viewpoint held by the Austrian Jewish Community regarding the recent speech of Chancellor Julius Raab which expressed the willingness of his Government to pay a certain lump sum for heirless property.

Ike Asks Release Of Atom Secrets to Allies

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (UP). — President Eisenhower asked Congress today to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 so as to permit the U.S. to share Atomic military information with its allies and to encourage private industry in the U.S. to undertake exploitation of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Congressional approval of these objectives, provided there are the necessary security safeguards, seems to be certain.

In a special 3,700 word message from the White House this afternoon, the President asked for leave in particular to give NATO commanders information on the use and effects of Atomic weapons.

Mr. Eisenhower did not ask for special authority to carry out his "Atoms for peace" plan now being discussed with the Soviet Union.

The President said: "For the purpose of strengthening the defence and economy of the U.S. and of the free world, I recommend that the Congress approve a number of amendments to the Atomic Energy Act of 1946.

Five Amendments

1. "In the military field for the exchange with America's allies of tactical information on the use of Atomic weapons.
2. "In the industrial field for the release to friendly nations of fissionable materials in amounts adequate for industrial research use.
3. "For a relaxation of restrictions on Americans engaging in the production of fissionable materials in foreign countries.
4. "For improved procedures for the control and dissemination of atomic energy information.
5. "To permit American industry to own, lease and develop Atomic reactors and fissionable materials."

Explaining that the 1946 Act was outdated, the President stated: "One popular assumption of 1946, that the U.S. could maintain its monopoly in Atomic weapons for an appreciable time, was quickly proved invalid.

"That monopoly disappeared in 1949... but to counteract that debit on the Atomic ledger there have been mighty increases in our assets.

Visions Realised

"A wide variety of Atomic weapons, considered in 1946 to be mere possibilities of a distant future, today have achieved conventional status in the arsenals of our armed forces.

"The thermonuclear weapon, non-existent eight years ago, today dwarfs in destructive power all Atomic weapons... the use of Atomic energy for ship propulsion ultimately will become widespread...

"Today, the availability of economic industrial power from Atomic energy sources is clearly largely a matter of further research and development.

Statutory restrictions, based on such actual facts of 1946 as the American monopoly of Atomic weapons and the limited application of Atomic energy for industrial use, are inconsistent with nuclear realities of 1954.

Colonialism No Issue In Indo-China, Ike Says

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (UP). — President Eisenhower, at his views conference today, rejected suggestions that colonialism is involved in the fighting in Indo-China.

When a reporter made the suggestion, the President replied immediately that that was not correct. He pointed out that France has announced that she would give independence to the nations of Indo-China within the French Union. The Vietnamese, he added, are fighting for their own independence, and the U.S. is not trying to support colonialism.

On home front problems, Mr. Eisenhower said that if employment does not increase next month he will consider taking emergency measures, including raising personal income tax exemptions, to make sure that the nation does not skid into a depression.

He stated that March will be the key month in the employment picture, and that his economic advisers have told him that employment should begin picking up then.

When a reporter asked what was the status of the international atomic pool idea, the President replied that the idea is not dead. He added that he would not be surprised to see further negotiations.

50 Mau Mau Dead in Raid

NAIROBI, Wednesday (Reuter). — About 50 Mau Mau terrorists were believed to have been killed in a heavy clash with security forces today at Thika, 30 kilometres north of here.

Reports reaching here said that the battle was still in progress. It is one of the biggest Mau Mau raids of the 16-month emergency.

H-Bomb Made Chasm Mile Wide in Sea

CHICAGO, Wednesday (UP). — Representative W. Sterling Cole said today that the "hydrogen device" exploded by the U.S. in 1952 loosed enough violence to wipe out the heart of any city.

And the 1952 test H-bomb, he added, was just the forerunner of "an entire family of hydrogen weapons" of presumably greater destructive power.

Concerning the 1952 explosion Mr. Cole stated:

"It tore a cavity in the floor of the ocean—a crater—measuring a full mile in diametre and 175 feet in depth at its deepest point."

Mr. Cole, Chairman of the House-Senate Atomic Energy Committee, addressed the National Sand and Gravel Association and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association at a joint luncheon. He called for production of "tens of thousands of Atomic missiles" as a "barrier of firepower" against possible H-bomb attacks on American cities.

In the first detailed official public discussion on the world's first full-scale H-bomb test at Eniwetok in the autumn of 1952, Mr. Cole confirmed that the blast had "completely obliterated the test island." He added that it could have done the same to city structures in a circle 10 kilometres across. Its heat and violence would have "blanketed" an area of 900 square kms.

'Doctors' Prosecutor Given Party Post

LONDON, Wednesday (UP). — Russia's reshuffling of Regional Governments today restored to power the former State Security Minister who was dismissed for prosecuting Jewish doctors in the Kremlin.

Sergei D. Ignatiev, dropped from the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers after the Kremlin changed its line on the Jewish doctors, was appointed First Secretary to the Communist Party of the Bashkir Republic.

The appointment puts him in charge of one of the most important areas in the Ural industrial empire. It was one of a growing series of shuffles accompanying current Party congresses and conferences in almost all the non-Russian Republics of the Soviet Union.

China Charged With Holding 101 Americans

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (UP). — The U.S. has formally accused People's China of holding 101 Americans against their will and has demanded their release, officials stated yesterday.

They said that the protest was recently lodged through Britain as the U.S. does not recognise the Communist regime.

Pressure Eased On Luang Prabang

HANOI, Wednesday. — French fighter bombers blasted a whole Vietminh regiment back into the jungles from Muong Sai, 100 kilometres north of Luang Prabang, today, easing pressure on the last outpost guarding the Laotian Royal Capital.

Foreign legionnaires and African troops, meanwhile, dug in with orders to hold "at all costs" two hills torn from the Vietminh in hard fighting at Dien Bien Phu, breaking the Vietminh iron ring after an 89-day siege.

French authorities announced tonight that Vietminh, raiding the Vietnam Catholic village of Thua Thuong, south-east of Hanoi, had slaughtered an estimated 1,500 inhabitants in a machine-gun massacre.

The Vietminh High Command claimed today that their forces in Laos and Vietnam had inflicted 28,000 casualties on French Union Forces in the past two months.

The statement said that the Vietminh forces had "liberated" 160,000 square kilometres of Laos with a population of about one million. In Vietnam, 24,000 square kilometres of territory had been "liberated" with a population of 800,000.

Smuggling Suspect Tracked in Paris

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA, Wednesday. — Shmuel Skaglo, 47, a merchant, and Elizabeth Jaggers, 42, owner of a watch factory, both of Tel Aviv, were charged in the District Court here, with attempting into the country 6.5 kilograms of synthetic precious stones and 2.5 kilograms of silver smuggled items.

The goods arrived in the ss. Artza and were smuggled into Haifa Port on March 2, 1953. They allegedly were hidden in 45 cans in a wooden crate containing personal belongings.

The smuggling allegedly was done with the connivance of the goods in the Port, due to the alertness of a police detective whose name is being kept secret by court order.

The detective, who appeared as the first prosecution witness, said that he trailed Milgrom in Paris for some time until he saw him entering a small carpentry shop where the cans were made in boards which were subsequently used to make a crate. He entered the shop and marked the boards with two signs, and then followed the crate until it reached the port at Marseilles.

At that point he asked the police here, who seized the [illegible] on their arrival.

MUNICH POLICE FIGHT REFUGEES

MUNICH, Wednesday (UP). — Jewish displaced persons battled police outside the American Joint Distribution Committee offices today in a demonstration demanding that their military-style D. P. camp be closed.

Some 200 D. P.'s crowded the office. Police surrounded the building and pushed back the demonstrators.

As they were channelled into side streets, fist fights broke out. One demonstrator was slightly injured. Two were detained temporarily by the police.

The demonstrators were occupants of the Foehrenwald displaced persons' camp near here, one of the few camps still holding homeless from World War II.

Of the 2,000 inmates of Foehrenwald camp, 1,000 are illegal returnees from Israel, it is believed. They returned in the hopes of obtaining entry visas to the Western world.

Arabs Stirring Up Anti-Semitism—Yahil

BERLIN, Wednesday (Reuter). — Dr. Chaim Yahil, Special Israel Envoy, said here today that the Arab world was doing its best to sponsor anti-Semitism.

He was commenting on a press conference yesterday at which the Syrian observer in Berlin, Ambassador Gamal Farra, had stated that his country had protested to representatives of the Four Powers and to Austria and East and West Germany against possible restitution clauses in favour of Israel in future German and Austrian treaties.

Dr. Yahil added that it was "absolutely untrue" that Israel had refused compensation to Arab refugees who had left Israel. Israel had made repeated offers, he declared.

Russia Admits Iran Claim to Gold

TEHERAN, Wednesday. — Russia dramatically warmed up her bid for Iranian friendship today just as Britain's new Ambassador flew off from London to lead Western efforts to solve the dispute over Iran's oil reserves.

The latest Soviet move was a belated admission that Russia owes its southern neighbour 11 tons of gold.

The disputed bullion, blocked in Russia since the war's end, was a major point of dispute in lengthy negotiations now under way here between the two Governments on complicated border and financial issues.

Soviet negotiators, meeting at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, timed the move with the departure from London of Sir Roger Bentham Stevens, the first British Ambassador here since former Premier Mohammed Mossadegh seized British oil properties and severed diplomatic relations.

(Reuter, UP)

MANY DEATHS IN ADEN OIL RIOT

Forty Somali workers were killed and 260 injured in the recent disturbances in the Aden refineries, "Falastin" reported yesterday. At the same time, several Yemenite workers were killed and 180 injured.

The disturbances broke out over the detention o fa Yemenite worker by a Somali watchman.

A group of 160 Palestinian Arabs implicated in the disturbances were dismissed from their posts and sent back to the Old City in four chartered planes.

UK Backs Israel On Suez Blockade

LONDON, Wednesday (UP). — Minister of State Selwyn Lloyd today promised Britain's support for Israel at U.N. case against Egyptian activities in the Suez Canal but declined to reveal whether British forces in the Canal Zone would back up any decision in the case.

A Conservative backbencher, Mr. Eric Johnson, asked Mr. Lloyd in the House of Commons if it was not a fact that Egypt's action in enforcing a blockade of certain Israel-bound ships violated the 1888 Agreement guaranteeing freedom of navigation through the Canal.

He asked if it would therefore be right for the Government to support Israel's protest to the Security Council.

Mr. Lloyd replied that what Mr. Johnson stated was the view of the Government.

Conservative Patrick Maitland suggested that the Government should offer naval vessels to escort ships through the Suez Canal.

Mr. Lloyd replied that future policy must "obviously depend on Council debate."

Israel Accepts Inquiry Into Iraq Allegations

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — Israel has agreed in principle to certain suggestions made by third parties that an impartial inquiry should be held in Israel into Iraqi allegations that seven Iraqi officers of junior rank are still held here as prisoners of war — despite the fact that this charge, raised five years after the end of hostilities, is an outrage to commonsense, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said here tonight.

The Iraq Government has alleged that the three Israelis are being kept as hostages for the "detained P.O.W.'s," although this excuse was put forward as late as a month after the three Israelis—Mrs. David Barnes and Mr. and Mrs. Ya'acov Ben-Zariya, of Givat Shimshon—were detained when the British plane in which they were travelling made a forced landing at Baghdad Airfield.

Mr. David Barnes, addressing journalists here tonight, appealed to the Iraqi authorities in his own name and in that of his five-year-old son, Menahem, (now in Haifa), to release his 31-year-old wife, Minnie.

Two Letters

Mr. Barnes said that while in Teheran he had received two letters from his wife by regular mail, one dated January 6, three days after her detention, and another on January 18. Both were written in English and showed that although her physical condition was satisfactory, she was mentally depressed. She wrote that she was confined in a "separate room" and hoped that her nerves would not betray her. In the second letter, she said that she would not give a long account of her life in detention, but "to be honest, I'm rather depressed. I try to overcome this by reading, but I don't always succeed." She made no mention of the other two detainees and may not even know that they are still being held.

"The Israel Government has asserted that no Iraqis, either civilian or military are being detained in Israel. This should be obvious from the fact that for five full years after the end of armed hostilities, the Iraqi Government — not normally reluctant to utter grievances against Israel — has never once intimated the existence of such prisoners. Furthermore, four weeks had elapsed from the date of the arrest of the passengers, before the Iraqi authorities hit upon the fantastic charge, which they had obvious difficulty in formulating.

Fruitless Appeals

"The appeals of influential powers and international agencies to the Government of Iraq so far have proved fruitless. It would appear that the time has come for these powers and agencies — and indeed for the community as a whole—to insist that Iraq behave in a more civilized manner and release the three detained Israelis.

The British pilot of their aircraft, on a charter flight from Cyprus to Teheran, had at first refused to allow the Iraqi authorities to enter the plane but was finally instructed by the British Consul in Baghdad to let them do so. The Dutch Minister in the Iraqi capital had been refused permission to see Mrs. Barnes who holds a Dutch as well as Israel passport. A British Embassy representative was permitted to see her but not to talk to her.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that efforts were being made through various intermediaries to obtain the release of the three detainees.

The spokesman pointed out that in recent weeks a number of Arab citizens who had entered Israel because of weather conditions (Lebanese fishermen) or inadvertently had strayed over the border (Egyptian students from the Gaza Strip) had all been released within a short time and sent back home.

The spokesman's statement read:

Six Weeks Pass

"Six weeks have passed since the Iraqi authorities arrested three Israel passengers of a British plane that was forced down by bad weather at Baghdad Airfield. This action against peaceful citizens in distress was described by Prime Minister Sharett in the Knesset on January 27 as kidnapping and an international scandal. The intervention of various governments and international agencies (Red Cross, International Civil Aviation Organisation, as well as the Secretary General of the U.N.) so far has been of no avail.

"In the meantime, the Iraqi authorities — who have boasted over Baghdad Radio that the arrest is an act of patriotism — have added insult to injury. They are alleging in various and conflicted versions through diverse intermediaries that a number of Iraqi officers and men are being held as prisoners in Israel: first five, then ten and eventually seven prisoners were mentioned. In one communication, the Iraqis mentioned an entirely fictitious name as the place of detention.

Lebanese Premier Quits, Returns

Lebanese Premier Abdullah el Yaffi withdrew his resignation last night after President Camille Chamoun refused to accept it at the end of a three-hour meeting.

The Lebanese Government resigned late on Tuesday night, after a stormy five-hour foreign affairs debate in Parliament and a vote of confidence won by two votes.

Yaffi disclosed tonight that he would proceed to Damascus today to prepare the ground for a meeting between Chamoun and Syrian President Adib Shishakly, as part of efforts at mediation between Syria and Iraq.

Two major issues brought matters to a head — the failure of the Yaffi Government to reach an agreement with Syria for the re-establishment of economic union, and the support given by Yafri to Fadil Jamali's Arab Federal Union project without first obtaining the approval of Parliament.

The vote was 18 in support of the Cabinet, 16 against, with nine abstentions. Yaffi told correspondents that he felt that such a narrow margin of confidence required his Government's resignation.

In Damascus, meanwhile the Syrian Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee has requested the Foreign Ministry for a draft of the Syrian counter-proposal to Iraq's Federal Union Scheme.

In Baghdad, opposition members told the Iraqi Parliament that Iraq had much to do to solve domestic problems before she could possibly sponsor Jamali's project.

(ANA, NEA&E)

FOA Gave Israel $39m. And Arab States $1.7m.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday (Reuter). — Government officials said today that Israel had received more than $39m. in special economic aid from the U.S. since November.

The Arab League countries, they stated, had been given no special economic help as yet but had shared a total of about $1,745,000 in Point Four aid.

Last autumn Congress had approved a total of $147m. in special assistance to Israel, Iran and the Arab States.

A spokesman for the Foreign Operations Administration said that Israel had been given $26,250,000 in November and this was followed by another economic aid allocation of $13,125,000 earlier this year.

He added that no decisions on specific economic aid allocations to the Arabs had yet been made but that the matter was under consideration.

The spokesman stated that since the start of the current fiscal year last July, funds for Middle East technical assistance projects under the Point Four programme were allocated as follows:

Egypt $248,000; Iraq $418,000; Jordan $407,000; the Lebanon $349,000; Saudi Arabia $326,000; and Israel $304,000.

There were no allocations for Syria.

Bedek, El Al Agree On Overhauling Aircraft

LYDDA AIRPORT, Wednesday (ITIM). — Agreement has been reached between El Al and the Government-owned Bedek Aircraft Maintenance Base here to overhaul the Israel airline's engines, it was learned here today. Contracts are due to be signed next week.

The contracts call for 180,000 hours of work, for which El Al will pay some IL.400,000. Such work formerly was carried out for El Al abroad, so that the Bedek maintenance will save the country foreign currency.

The Bedek works, which now employ 170 men, are at present re-sealing the tanks of El Al's fourth Constellation, which is to go into regular service shortly.

KING GUSTAV RECEIVES MRS. MYERSON

STOCKHOLM, Wednesday (INA). — King Gustav of Sweden this afternoon received Mrs. Golda Myerson, Israel Minister of Labour, accompanied by Mr Avraham Nissan, Minister to Sweden. They presented the King with samples of antique glassware excavated at Bethlehem. The King is an expert in that field.

Petrol, Cigarette, Beer Prices Up; Wine Drop Seen

Higher excise taxes which come into effect today, are to raise the price of Oriental brands of cigarettes by up to 20 pruta a pack and higher custom duties are to increase the cost of a litre of petrol by 30 pruta, it was announced yesterday. The tariff on a bottle of dry wine is to be decreased by 50 pruta.

These changes, which are in accordance with the proposed Budget for the coming fiscal year, are the last to be made in regard to customs and indirect taxes in connection with the Budget's estimated revenue, it was said.

The increased revenue from the cigarette tax is expected to bring in IL.15m. during the next fiscal year, as compared with actual revenue of IL.13m. during the current fiscal year.

Dearer in Capital

Petrol is to cost 192 pruta a litre (formerly 162) in Haifa and 197 pruta a litre (formerly 167) in Jerusalem. It was noted that petrol is still included in the list of fuel products which benefit from subsidies, approximately IL.17m. in the proposed Budget. Even after the increase, it was stated, petrol will cost less here than in most European countries, including England. The tax is expected to bring in about IL.6m. in the coming fiscal year.

The price of a bottle of dry wine is expected to drop by 100 pruta, since it is anticipated that industrialists are to reduce the price in addition to the lower excise tax. The tariff was reduced to encourage the development of local vineyards by increasing wine consumption.

To offset this fiscal loss, the excise tax on a bottle of beer is to be increased by 15 pruta.

270 Dorot Sheep Rustled by Arabs

BEERSHEBA, Wednesday. — A gang of six armed marauders from the Gaza Strip stole a flock of 270 sheep from a Kibbutz Dorot shepherd this morning and in broad daylight led it ten kilometres to the border near Beit Hanun.

The band surprised the shepherd at about 8.30 a.m., gagged him and bound him to a rock in a wadi about three kilometres from the kibbutz. After debating in Hebrew and Arabic whether to do away with the shepherd, Mr. I. Heller, 30, they decided to spare him. They stripped him of his pistol, clothing and watch and left one man to guard him while five led the flock away.

At about 6 p.m., the guard released Heller, gave him a package of Arabic cigarettes and bade him farewell, saying, "See you in Jerusalem." Police estimated the value of the flock at IL.39,000.

The Israel-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission yesterday made an on-the-spot investigation and discovered tracks leading to the Gaza strip, the Army spokesman announced. Israel has demanded the immediate return of the stolen flock.

Tulkarm Incident

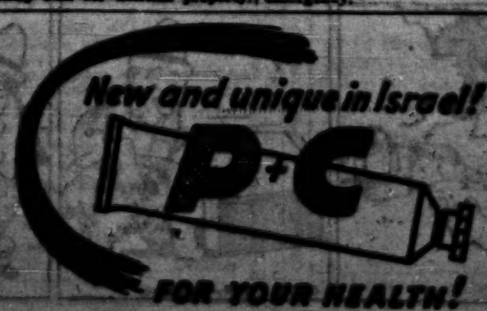
The Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission yesterday held an emergency meeting to discuss a Jordan complaint on the Tulkarm incident of Sunday morning, the Army spokesman announced. On that day, there was an exchange of fire between a patrol of border police and armed Jordanians who had entered Israel territory.

The Jordan complaint states that an Israel patrol had crossed the lines and opened fire. It was decided to continue the investigations in this case today.

Death Asked For Two Jordanians

BEERSHEBA, Wednesday. — The death sentence was asked by the prosecutor here today in the military trial of two Jordanians who are charged with spying against Israel while being members of an armed band.

The hearings were adjourned until Tuesday.



From Today —
also
Pasteurized
TNUVA SWEET CREAM
from pure milk
32% fat
Price in the supermarket 200 grams bottle — 300 pr

Social & Personal

The President held a reception yesterday evening on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the B'nai Lemmi. Present were the Minister of Finance and Mrs. Eshkol, the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Mrs. Bernstein, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. and Mrs. Hoofien, Dr. A. Beatts, Dr. G. Halpern, Dr. A. Hantke, Mr. A. Shenkar, Mr. and Mrs. Barell, Mrs. Minzer Kaplanr Mr. and Mrs. P. Sapir, and high officials of the Bnai Lemmi.

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Mr. A. White of the Consular Division of the British Foreign Office, arrived yesterday by BOAC to inspect the Consulates in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem. From Israel he will continue his tour of inspection to other Middle East countries.

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Persons leaving by Swissair on Tuesday included Mr. D. Fordman, Honorary Israel Consul in Cuba, and Mr. A. Brodnitz, of the Palestine Economic Corporation in New York.

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Miss Sophie Udin, Director of the State Archives and Library, returned on Tuesday from a visit to the U.S.

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Mr. Meir Wilner, M.K. (Communist), left yesterday by Cyprus Airways *en route* to Bulgaria to attend the conference of the Bulgarian Communist Party which is to open in Sofia on February 25.

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Mr. M. Djukaric, representing the official Yugoslav meat and cattle company, arrived yesterday by El Al to negotiate the sale of cattle and foodstuffs to Israel.

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Mr. T. Angstrom, Director of Civil Aviation in the Swedish Government, arrived yesterday by Cyprus Airways for a short visit.

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Mr. H. C. Katz, the Austrian Commercial Delegate, returned yesterday from Nicosia by Cyprus Airways.

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Professor David Rittenberg, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, has arrived in Rehovot for an extended period of research at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

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Mr. W. Seeman, Chief Agent for Kaiser Fraser in South Africa and British Central Africa, returned to Johannesburg by El Al on Tuesday after a short visit to Israel regarding export of Haifa-made cars to his territory.

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Mr. Warren Pinegar, Deputy Director of CARE, arrived on Tuesday by Swissair for a short visit here during which he will discuss CARE affairs with Government officials.

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Mr. Avigdor Bartal, Director of the Public Works Department of the Ministry of Labour, returned yesterday by T.W.A. from West Germany, where he had advised the Reparations Purchasing Mission on contracts for $1.3m. worth of equipment for his department.

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Dr. A. G. Black, head of the FAO delegation in Israel, will deliver a guest lecture in English, "Towards Planned Agriculture in Israel," at five p.m. today at the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University, Rehovot.

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Professor M. Buber of the Hebrew University will deliver a lecture, "Between Man and His Fellowman," at 8.30 this evening at the Ratisbonne Building, Hall 73. The public is invited.

•

A discussion to be broadcast by Kol Zion Lagola will be held tonight at 8.30 p.m. at the Israel Touring Club, Jerusalem, on "Should the Law of the Return be Amended?" at which the participants will be Dr. Z. Warhaftig, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Mr. A. Moyal, Director General of the Ministry of Interior.

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At today's luncheon meeting of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Rotary Club, at Z.O.A. House, Dr. M. Preuss, Chief Surgeon of the Crippled Children's Home, will speak on "Treatment of Crippled Children."

•

The Council of the Jerusalem branch of the Medical Association, elected the following officers to the presidium: Professor Joseph Gurevitch, Chairman; Dr. Joseph Landau, Vice-Chairman; and Dr. Joseph Serlana, Secretary. Board members elected were: Drs. R. Rabinovich, Chairman; Dr. S. Sharashevsky and Dr. A. Brandt, Vice-Chairmen; Dr. W. Sternbach, Treasurer.

•

The Annual General Meeting of the Israel Touring Club, Jerusalem, elected Dr. E.L. Nebenzahl, Chairman of the Council and Mr. Shalom F. Doron, Chairman of the Board. Other members of the Council include: Mr. Walter Spitzer, Mr. H. Krongold, Mrs. R. Nurock, Rabbi F.G. Nathan, Mrs. Y. Malkov, Mr. G. Hammer, Mr. F. Becker and Dr. I. Katznellenbogen.

ENGAGEMENT

TOUBKIN — LIEBSTER

The engagement is announced of Walter Eitan, son of Mrs. Miriam Toubkin and the late Mr. Julius Toubkin of 13 Riverside Drive, Golders Green Road, London, N.W. 11, to Leila, elder daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Lionel Liebster of 9 Wellin Way, London, N.2.

THE HEBREW NATIONAL OPERA

TEL AVIV: HABIMAH Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 8.15 p.m.

HAIFA "ARMON" Thursday, Feb 23 at 9 p.m.

REHOVOT "HEIH HA'AM" Thursday, Feb 23 at 8.30 p.m.

TOSCA

Opera in 3 acts by Puccini with

Edith Dalla Pergola

(as Tosca)

Conductor: Alberto Erede of the STRADIVARI Co. Mantua

Tickets: TEL AVIV: Bella, 27 Allenby. Tel. 3013; Kassit, 38 Allenby. Tel. 3242. Haifa: Steinberg's Office. Rehovot: Pelonia

HAIFA: Steinberg's Office. REHOVOT: Pelonia

Nobel Prize Winners On Weizmann Board

Four Nobel Prize winners are among ten internationally known scientists who have recently accepted nomination to the Board of Governors of the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovot, according to an announcement by Mr. Meyer W. Weisgal, Chairman of the Institute's Executive Council.

They are Prof. Felix Bloch, of Stanford University, California; Prof. Niels H.D. Bohr, of the Institute for Theoretical Physics, Copenhagen; Prof. Ernst B. Chain, of the Instituto Superiore di Sanita, Rome; and Prof. Sir Robert Robinson, O.M., F.R.S., of Oxford University.

The other scientists are Prof. Fritz Feigl, of Rio de Janeiro University; Prof. Louis Fieser, of Harvard University; Prof. Herman F. Mark, of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Prof. David Rittenberg, of Columbia University; Prof. Franz Simon, of Oxford University; and Prof. Jacques Tréfouel, Director of the Pasteur Institute, Paris.

Mrs. Chaim Weizmann, has also been elected a member of the Institute's Board of Governors.

250 to Be Put On BBC Listener Panel

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — The Hebrew section of the B.B.C. is about to organize a panel of 250 Israel listeners to obtain regular comments on the quality of the Hebrew programmes, the British Embassy announced here yesterday.

The 250 panel critics are to be selected partly from among regular listeners to the Hebrew transmissions and partly from names picked at random from telephone directories, professional directories, and others.

At three-monthly intervals, questionnaires will be sent to the panel members whose answers will form the basis of assessment of the popularity of the programmes and as a guide to future programme changes and adjustments.

In this way, the Hebrew section of the B.B.C. hopes to keep in regular and close touch with the Israel listener and to co-opt him as a partner in shaping the transmissions.

Similar panels have already been organized by the various language services of the B.B.C. in other countries.

League Experts Hit Yarmuk Plan

The Arab League committee of irrigation experts, now on a tour of the Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, has expressed opposition to the joint UNRWA-Point Four-Jordan Government scheme for the Yarmuk River, "Falastin" reported yesterday.

The Jordan Minister of Commerce, Anwar Khatib, on Tuesday night also expressed to that paper an adverse opinion on the scheme.

Where to go

JERUSALEM

★ Librarian— American Library and Reading Room, U.S. Consulate, Mamilla Rd. Entrance free, 9-1, 2-6.

★ Archaeology: — Permanent exhibition and finds from excavation near Ein Gedi. Dept. of Antiquities, 25 Rehov Shlomo Hamelech, 9-1, 4-6.

★ Exhibitions: — Modern Mexican Prints (Rivera, Orozco, Siqueiros, etc.). Peruvian ceramics. New Acquisitions: Prints by William Hogarth. Exhibit of the month: "Three Women in a Glade," National Museum Bezalel, 9-1, 3-6 p.m.

Exhibition of paintings by Hanna Wetler-Levi and Josef Kressonoyi, auspices: The Israel Artists and Sculptors Association, Artists' House, 10-1, 4-6.

★ Tour: — Hebrew University conducted tour, new administration building, King George Ave., opposite Terra Sancta, 10 a.m.

★ Theatre: — Habimah, "Most Cruel-The King," Edison Hall, 8 p.m.

★ Music: — "Collegium Musicum," all-English programme with Rena Sandscroft, soprano; Y.M.C.A. Hall, 8.45 p.m.

TEL AVIV

★ Exhibition to— 100 Years of Dutch Painting. Museum, 10-1 p.m.

HAIFA

★ Theatres: — Habimah, Cinema, 8 p.m. "Escapade," Armon

JAFFA

★ Theatres: — Do-Re-Mi, Operetta, 8.30 p.m. "Countess Maritza,"

HATIKVA

★ Theatres: — "Pygmalion," Chamber Theatre, 8 p.m.

JERUSALEM CINEMAS

At 2, 4.30 & 8.30 p.m.

ARMON: My Cousin Rachel.
EDEN: The Merry Widow.
EDISON: Means of War. (at 2.45, 6.45 & 8.45).
ORIOL: The Wanted.
ORION: The Thief of Venice.
ORNA: The President's Lady.
STUDIO: The Third Man.
ZION: National Treasure.

ON THE AIR

JERUSALEM: 497 M.; HAIFA: 260 M.; TEL AVIV: 962, 49.0 & 422 M.

FIRST PROGRAMME

NEWS: Hebrew: 7 a.m., 1.30, 6.15 (including News); 8 a.m., 2.15 & 8.30 p.m. English: 11.30 a.m., 6.30 p.m. Arabic: 6.30 p.m. Russian: 6.45 Musical Clock (R). 7.15 Melodies (R). 8.30 Close Down.

12.30 p.m. Music at Noon (R). 12.50 Instrumental Concert. 12.55 Weather Report (R). 1.05 Songs (R). 1.30 Close Down.

4.00 p.m. Opera (R). 5.30 Programme for Youngsters. 6.30 Food Rental. 6.45 Midday Lessons. 8.15 Close Down.

HEMDAH-RAVOV BEYOND (49.5, 41.7 & 422 M.): French: 8.30 p.m. Lecture; 7.05 p.m. English: 7.50 p.m. Hebrew.

KOL ZION LA'GOLA (49.5 M.): 11.15 News Reviewed. 11.25 Jewish Musicians.

VOICE OF PEACE (41.6 M.): 7.15 p.m. Hebrew; 7.30 Spanish; 7.45 Hebrew; 8.00 Spanish; 8.15 Hebrew; 8.30 Spanish; 8.45 Hebrew; 9.00 Spanish; 9.15 Hebrew; 9.30 Spanish; 9.45 Hebrew; 10.00 Spanish; 10.15 Hebrew; 10.30 Spanish; 10.45 Hebrew; 11.00 Spanish; 11.15 Hebrew; 11.30 Spanish; 11.45 Hebrew; 12.00 Spanish; 12.15 a.m. Hebrew; 12.30 a.m. Spanish; 12.45 a.m. Hebrew; 1.00 a.m. Spanish; 1.15 a.m. Hebrew; 1.30 a.m. Spanish; 1.45 a.m. Hebrew; 2.00 a.m. Spanish; 2.15 a.m. Hebrew; 2.30 a.m. Spanish; 2.45 a.m. Hebrew; 3.00 a.m. Spanish; 3.15 a.m. Hebrew; 3.30 a.m. Spanish; 3.45 a.m. Hebrew; 4.00 a.m. Spanish; 4.15 a.m. Hebrew; 4.30 a.m. Spanish; 4.45 a.m. Hebrew; 5.00 a.m. Spanish; 5.15 a.m. Hebrew; 5.30 a.m. Spanish; 5.45 a.m. Hebrew; 6.00 a.m. Spanish; 6.15 a.m. Hebrew; 6.30 a.m. Spanish; 6.45 a.m. Hebrew; 7.00 a.m. Spanish; 7.15 a.m. Hebrew; 7.30 a.m. Spanish; 7.45 a.m. Hebrew; 8.00 a.m. Spanish; 8.15 a.m. Hebrew; 8.30 a.m. Spanish; 8.45 a.m. Hebrew; 9.00 a.m. Spanish; 9.15 a.m. Hebrew; 9.30 a.m. Spanish; 9.45 a.m. Hebrew; 10.00 a.m. Spanish; 10.15 a.m. Hebrew; 10.30 a.m. Spanish; 10.45 a.m. Hebrew; 11.00 a.m. Spanish; 11.15 a.m. Hebrew; 11.30 a.m. Spanish; 11.45 a.m. Hebrew; 12.00 p.m. Spanish; 12.15 p.m. Hebrew; 12.30 p.m. Spanish; 12.45 p.m. Hebrew; 1.00 p.m. Spanish; 1.15 p.m. Hebrew; 1.30 p.m. Spanish; 1.45 p.m. Hebrew; 2.00 p.m. Spanish; 2.15 p.m. Hebrew; 2.30 p.m. Spanish; 2.45 p.m. Hebrew; 3.00 p.m. Spanish; 3.15 p.m. Hebrew; 3.30 p.m. Spanish; 3.45 p.m. Hebrew; 4.00 p.m. Spanish; 4.15 p.m. Hebrew; 4.30 p.m. Spanish; 4.45 p.m. Hebrew; 5.00 p.m. Spanish; 5.15 p.m. Hebrew; 5.30 p.m. Spanish; 5.45 p.m. Hebrew; 6.00 p.m. Spanish; 6.15 p.m. Hebrew; 6.30 p.m. Spanish; 6.45 p.m. Hebrew; 7.00 p.m. Spanish; 7.15 p.m. Hebrew; 7.30 p.m. Spanish; 7.45 p.m. Hebrew; 8.00 p.m. Spanish; 8.15 p.m. Hebrew; 8.30 p.m. Spanish; 8.45 p.m. Hebrew; 9.00 p.m. Spanish; 9.15 p.m. Hebrew; 9.30 p.m. Spanish; 9.45 p.m. Hebrew; 10.00 p.m. Spanish; 10.15 p.m. Hebrew; 10.30 p.m. Spanish; 10.45 p.m. Hebrew; 11.00 p.m. Spanish; 11.15 p.m. Hebrew; 11.30 p.m. Spanish; 11.45 p.m. Hebrew; 12.00 a.m.

Today's Post Bag

THE WEATHER

	°A	B	C	D
Mt. Carmel	61	4	14	10
Tiberias	61	2	20	10
Haifa Port	63	50	57	52
Nazareth	59	3	19	12
North Tel Aviv	64	7	20	12
Tel Aviv Port	66	9	17	12
Lydda (Airport	63	1	21	10
Jerusalem	62	1	15	14
Beersheba	70	2	19	12
Eilat	71	12	24	12

FORECAST: Variable amounts of high and medium clouds. Many in South.

°A) Humidity at 8 p.m. B) Minimum temp. C) Maximum yesterday D) Maximum temp. expected today

THE FORTNIGHTLY convoy went up to Mount Scopus yesterday, accompanied by 18 persons, including scientists and personnel of the Hebrew University and the Hadassah Medical Organization.

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SIX-YEAR-OLD Gershon Levi, of Mesilat Zion, in the Jerusalem Corridor, was seriously injured on Tuesday night by a car. The child was taken to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

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MALBEIN has granted a IL.30,000 loan to the Naharlya Local Council to establish a shopping centre in the Government housing estate.

Israel Expedited Britannic Guests

Jerusalem Post Staff

The s.s. Britannic left Haifa last evening and today the new quay will be put into service for loading exports with the s.s. Negbah taking 8,000 cases of citrus from it.

Fifty-seven tourists from the Britannic and two tour conductors crossed into Jordan through Mandelbaum Gate yesterday afternoon. Preparations prior to their arrival at the Gate with the aid of the Israel Frontier Police and the Government Tourist Department enabled them to obtain clearance in a matter of minutes.

In no-man's-land, the tourists were asked to arrange themselves alphabetically, in single file, and, with their passports in hand, they passed through one by one. This procedure took over half-an-hour to complete. On the Israel side, the group had been included in one collective visa.

About 60 pieces of baggage were taken into no-man's-land by an Israeli truck, off-loaded and then re-loaded onto an Arab truck from Jordan which came alongside under the eyes of the Israel and Jordan police.

At the same time, about 80 other Britannic passengers returned to Haifa, after having spent nearly 48 hours in Jerusalem, to rejoin the ship. Those tourists who crossed into Jordan will rejoin the ship at Alexandria.

The visitors and tour conductors welcomed the arrangements, starting with the disembarkation at Haifa, and travel facilities, saying that the buses used were the best on the tour so far apart from those in Italy. They complimented the efforts of Mr. Shiflan, Israel representative of the American Express Company, and their car contractors, Ya-tour Ltd., who provided the buses, taxis and guides, the Government Tourist Department and other Israel officials for facilitating their tour of Israel.

Antonia Maria Here

HAIFA, Wednesday. — The Italian vessel, s.s. Antonia Maria, arrived here this e[illegible] with a cargo of 300 tons [illegible]d meat from Eritrea. She [illegible] enter the Port tomorrow.

The ship passed through the Suez Canal. She has been expected here for more than a week, but no news of her had been available.

TAXI VICTIME DIES

TEL AVIV, Wednesday (ITIM). — Mr. Ya'acov Torchin, 50, of the Hatikva Quarter, died in the Municipal Hospital this afternoon from injuries sustained when he was run over by a taxi in Allenby Road last week.

RATION NEWS

JERUSALEM: Frozen meat for invalids: 500 gr. Medical Association coupon, dated 14/2. Eggs: 5, Vav 12, temp. 3.

TEL AVIV: Frozen meat for invalids: 500 gr., Het Gimel 6, 500 gr. pruta a ration. Poultry for invalids: 500 gr., Het Aleph 1, Het Bet 7, IL.1,300 a ration; for expectant mothers: 750 gr., coupons 6 & 7; for children on Aleph, Bet, Gimel cards: 250 gr., Vav 25. Eggs: 2 eggs, Vav 12, temp. 2. Laundry soap: one bar plus 500 gr. on Aleph cards, Vav 22, temp. 13. Flour: 750 gr., Vav 6, temp. 14.

NORTHERN DISTRICT: Sugar: one bar plus additional 500 gr. on Aleph cards, Vav 7, temp. 2. Margarine: 400 gr., Vav 9, temp. 5. Imported Butter: 400 gr., Vav 8, temp. 10. Rice: 250 on Bet cards, 250 gr. on Aleph cards, Vav 8, temp. 8. Flour: 750 gr., no coupon.

Knesset Unit to Probe Reports Of Corruption, Graft in Civil Service

By SHAYA SHAPIRO, Jerusalem Post Parliamentary Reporter

A Knesset committee will investigate reports on corruption and graft in civil service, and will present for discussion in the House such instances as warrant public discussion. The move, proposed by Prime Minister Moshe Sharett, was accepted by Mr. Zisling (Mapam), who previously had moved for a full-scale debate on corruption in this country.

"It is our moral stature that is in jeopardy," Mr. Zisling stated.

Mr. Sharett said that current reports on the general low state of morals are "false." Courts are inflicting heavy punishments for corruption whenever the accusation is proved. The civil service has an internal organization to carry on disciplinary action when necessary. It serves no purpose when Knesset Members take the floor to speak in generalities about "corruption," Mr. Sharett remarked.

Corruption was also the highlight of the motion for the agenda put forward by Mr. Maguiri-Cohen (Herut), when he proposed to discuss the Rehovot "scandals." Minister of Interior, Israel Rokach said that those persons allegedly involved in the irregularities of the Rehovot Municipal Water Supply Department will stand trial.

Press Campaign

He was indignant about the "corruption scare" which had been fostered lately by certain afternoon papers. There was no need, he said, to hold elections in Rehovot because of a newspaper campaign. The motion was defeated.

Mr. Rokach showed interest and understanding in a motion moved by Mr. S. Lorincz (Agudat Yisrael), who indicated that couples here were not sufficiently encouraged to have large families. The income tax regulations should be changed to aid families with many children, Mr. Lorincz said. Mr. Rokach suggested that a joint sub-committee of the Finance and Labour Committees should consider the matter and present its findings to the Knesset after the budget is adopted.

"A Stink Bomb"

The motion which was introduced by Mr. E. Habibi (Communist) "to debate the work of the Custodian of Absentee Property on distribution of land," undoubtedly had its inspiration in the forthcoming municipal elections in Nazareth. Introducing his motion, Mr. Habibi said that he intended to counteract the importance of policy reform recently announced in regard to the Arab minority.

Mr. Levi Eshkol, Minister of Finance, who asked the House to vote down the move, called Mr. Habibi's allegations of irregular distribution of lands "a stink bomb." Facts, he said, should be forwarded to the authorities; general allegations can serve no other purpose but to smear the Government.

Next week the Knesset will hold two full sittings on Wednesday, instead of the usual one. It is expected that during March a supplementary sitting will also be held on Thursday, if the House Committee accepts the 130-hour debate on the Budget for which some opposition members have called.

Discussion on N.Y. Protest Opposed

Replying to the urgent motion that the Knesset discuss the demonstrations in New York against Israel's National Service Law, Prime Minister Sharett said yesterday that the Government was aware of the genuine concern aroused in certain sections of orthodox Jewry by the impending enforcement of this law, as a result of malicious misrepresentations spread about its purposes and the proposed methods of its implementation by elements hostile to Zionism and Israel.

He described the campaign of anti-Israel slander launched by these elements as a dark wave, and said "I don't know whether their unseemly conduct did any harm to Israel, but I doubt very much whether they thereby raised the prestige of the Jewish religion in the eyes of non-Jews or did credit to Orthodox Judaism in the eyes of the masses of American Jewry."

Aguda Denial

He expressed gratification at the fact that leaders and groups within the Orthodox section of the community were the first to set their faces against demonstrations. He also recalled Chief Rabbi Herzog's cable which, he said, did much to allay excitement and discredit the demonstrations.

Mr. Sharett added that leaders of the Aguda in Israel had informed him, on the basis of information they had received from the U.S., that the Aguda there had no hand in organizing the demonstrations.

He concluded by expressing the hope that the storm would now subside, and urged the Knesset not to magnify the issue by public debate.

House Rejects Debate On US Arms Aid

Foreign Minister Sharett opposed the motion put forward yesterday by Dr. M. Sneh (Left Socialist) that the house should hold another debate on his proposal that Israel's request for military aid from the U.S. be withdrawn.

He explained that the Government's paramount consideration in asking for military aid was Israel's need for outside assistance in general and for assistance in the form of modern armaments to strengthen her defences, in particular.

So far, the U.S. recognized Israel as eligible for reimbursable military aid, and certain licenses for the sale of arms under that heading had been granted. As for non-reimbursable military aid, the U.S. reply to Israel's application was still outstanding.

Alluding to Dr. Sneh's contention that if military aid to Israel were granted at all it would form part of an overall policy of supply of arms to the Middle East from which the Arab States would benefit far more than Israel, the Foreign Minister stated that a request for military aid by no means entailed an obligation to accept it if granted. It would all depend on conditions attaching, and circumstances prevailing at the time and the general background of the proposal.

There would certainly be conditions attached, but it was idle to discuss them hypothetically. Some of those mentioned by Dr. Sneh, he said, were the product of his imagination.

The basic purpose would remain to obtain arms necessary for the protection of Israel's security and independence. Such protection might, under certain circumstances, involve participation in regional defence. But as so far no offer was forthcoming, the discussion of the issue would be futile.

The House rejected Dr. Sneh's motion by a large majority.

Fight Service For Girls on Billboards

Opponents of Women's National Service took their battle to the hoardings of Jerusalem yesterday.

Posters, duly stamped by the Municipality, appeared throughout the Capital, calling upon the "daughters of Israel to lay down their lives" rather than submit to medical examination.

Appearing under the name of "The Religious Community and Ashkenazi Community Council" and over the signatures of Rabbis Pinhas Epstein, Izhak Blatk Reisman and David Halevy Jungreis, the posters claimed the "authority of the Torah" for their instructors.

"No daughter of Israel should reply to the letters to present themselves for medical examination, to mobilize, or to bow to threats, in which the Lord would extend them aid," they counselled, adding, "May He lift this evil edict, and raise up the horn of modesty and Torah."

Woman Heard Shot On Night of Slaying

TEL AVIV, Wednesday (ITIM). — A witness told the District Court here today that she had heard the report of a bullet and had seen shadowy figures running away from the vicinity of the Food Controller's office on the night of August 1, 1952, when the watchman, Baruch Finkelstein, was killed there. Four men are now on trial for the murder.

The witness, Miss Esther Deutsch, who lives in the building in which the offices of the Food Controller are located, said that she had suffered from insomnia on the night of the murder, and therefore heard the shot which drew her to the window.

The Court, composed of Judges S. Ka[illegible]man, I. Gavison and E. Manny, will visit the Hatikva quarter tomorrow, where the four defendants met with the State's witness to plan the looting of coupons from the Food Controller's Office on the night when Finkelstein was killed.

The State's witness, whose name is not disclosed, formerly had testified that his partners had participated in the crime.

Weizmann Exhibition At Z.O.A. House

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — On the fifth anniversary of Dr. Chaim Weizmann's election to the Presidency, Mrs. Chaim Weizmann, his widow, tonight opened, in the Z.O.A. House, an exhibition devoted to his life.

Mayor H. Levanon hailed the exhibition on behalf of the Municipality which had organized it together with the Z.O.A. House management. Dr. P. Katchalsky, Director of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, lectured on "Dr. Weizmann as a Man of Science." A short documentary film on the late President's life and career was shown.

The exhibition, which traces Dr. Weizmann's life chronologically, contains some documents which are exhibited publicly for the first time, notably a letter written by him when he was seven years old regarding a Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The month-long exhibition will be open daily from 3 to 8 p.m.

HEBRON SENTENCE

Israel Herbon was sentenced to death by the Tel Aviv District Court with Judges M. Kenset, S. Kassen and E. Manny sitting on the bench, and not by Judge Kenset alone.

Israel Pilgrimage Began At Weizmann Tomb

REHOVOT, Wednesday. — A young Argentine medical student, who arrived in Israel a short while ago with his bride on their honeymoon, came on a pilgrimage to the grave of Dr. Weizmann at Rehovot the morning after his arrival.

"We had decided that our very first visit would be to Dr. Weizmann's last resting-place," he told one of the attendants. "This, to us, is the beginning of our pilgrimage to Israel."

A Yemenite Jewish woman came to the graveside with her five children. Pointing at the simple inscription on the marble slab, she said to them: "You see, a great man needs only a simple grave. The real monument is the country itself which he built."

The stream of pilgrims continues steadily in all kinds of weather.

Last Monday, 180 schoolchildren from Rishon leZion, 80 children from Ekron and a group of 100 working women from Herzlia came to pay their respects. The children were addressed by their teachers on Dr. Weizmann's life and works.

At the grave now are small clusters of candles of various colours, obviously Hanukka lights, which children bring and light as their tribute to the first President of Israel.

Taxi Driver Held For Shooting Passenger

HAIFA, Wednesday. — Eliahu Levi, a taxi driver, was detained today on charges of shooting his passenger, Shimeon Osherov, inside his taxi near the Egged station after midnight yesterday. Osherov was taken to Rambam Hospital with three bullet wounds.

Levi claimed that Osherov had asked to be taken to the seashore but had begun "behaving strangely" near Egged station and had pulled out a revolver. Levi took the gun from him and shot him, he claimed. It is believed that earlier the men had quarrelled.

TOURISTS!
ASK FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF
LA'TAYAR
ISRAEL TOURIST FORTNIGHTLY
at all Government Tourist Information Offices, Tourist Hotels, Institutions, etc.

Spermark Holders To Get Full Rate

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israel citizens will receive, blocked marks (spermarks) at the full rate of exchange, effective immediately, following an agreement between the West German authorities and a representative of Israel Treasury sources indicated in Jerusalem yesterday.

In the past, the spermarks had to be discounted at far less than the market value of the German free currency, due to their limited disposability.

Negotiations were made difficult because of the lack of diplomatic relations, these sources stated. The agreement was reached between the Bank Leumi (acting as the State Bank until that institution begins functioning) and Bank der Deutschen Lander, its German opposite number. It is believed that Dr. P. Shinnar conducted the negotiations for Israel.

The value of the blocked mark accounts will be paid over to the Treasury in pounds sterling through Bank Leumi only, and residents here will receive the equivalent at a rate of exchange of about IL.3 for $1.

PROSKAUER LAUDS ISRAEL'S PROGRESS

Judge Joseph Proskauer, a prominent leader of American Jewry and a former New York State Supreme Court Judge, declared yesterday that Israel had made great progress since his last visit here three years ago.

The Judge, who arrived with Mrs. Proskauer on Tuesday in the s.s. Britannic, spent the past two days touring the country under the auspices of the Israel Office of the United Jewish Appeal.

"I wish every contributor to the U.J.A. could see as I have seen, the enormous gains for humanity which his generosity has furnished," Judge Proskauer said.

President Ben-Zvi received the Judge in Jerusalem yesterday. *(Itim.)*

Potash Works Director Arrives from U.K.

LYDDA AIRPORT, Wednesday (ITIM). — Lord Glenconner, British member of the Dead Sea Works Board of Directors and formerly Chairman of Palestine Potash Ltd., arrived today by BOAC, accompanied by Lady Glenconner.

During the two weeks he will spend in Israel he will attend the Board of Directors' meetings, for the first time, and will inspect the works at the southern end of the Dead Sea.

Mr. A. Citron, Deputy-Director of the Company, who met the visitors here, said that the Sdom works were now producing between 100 and 150 tons of potash a day. By July, this figure should be increased to 400 tons daily.

Since the works had resumed production, some 2,000 tons of potash have been shipped to Britain, and 3,000 tons are to be sent to South Africa shortly. Several hundred workers are now employed at Sdom.

Currency Circulation Down IL.375,000

TEL AVIV, Wednesday.—Currency in circulation declined by IL.375,000 to IL.144,838,000 during the past week, as of the close of banking business tonight.

The decline, following an increase of IL.4,075,000 in the previous week, resulted from a drop of IL.208,000 in foreign currency holdings to IL.4,482,000 and a decline of IL.27,000 in Treasury bills to IL.62,580,000. Land bonds remained steady at IL.77,276,000.

U.J.A. EMISSARIES

Mr. E. Dobkin, Chairman of the Keren Hayesod Directorate, who left on Tuesday to open the United Jewish Appeal in Mexico and Cuba, is to visit South Africa for the U.J.A. at the end of March and not in May, as Itim reported yesterday.

Mr. Joseph Serlin, Minister of Health, is to open the Appeal in Argentina and not in South Africa as Itim also reported.

Heavy Sleeper

Early yesterday morning, a stray bullet ripped through the wall of Zion Levi's tin hut in the Talpiot warbarn, Jerusalem, and buried itself in his mattress, near his head.

Only when he awoke several hours later to go to work did he discover how narrowly he had escaped death. Residents of the area have told police that they had heard shooting early in the morning in the direction of the Armistice lines. *(Itim.)*

Drivers Punished For Night 'Blinding'

TEL AVIV, Wednesday (ITIM). — The licences of a number of drivers were suspended for a month while other drivers were fined IL.25 each, when about 80 drivers were found guilty in Traffic Court here today of blinding oncoming vehicles while night driving. A similar charge will be made in the Traffic Court tomorrow against over a hundred drivers.

Police have tightened up their road checks in recent days, in view of the the increased number of accidents due to drivers being temporarily blinded by oncoming cars.

Cypriots Protest Rent Increases

By ILIS K. RUSSELL
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NICOSIA, Wednesday. — Thousands of Cypriots gathered this evening in the island's six main towns to protest against the recently published Rent Control Bill which provides for increases of up to 350% on 1941 rent for shops and 150% for houses.

It was decided to close all shops on the island on February 27 for one day as a protest strike.

The rent controversy started last March with the gazetting of a bill which proposed the decontrol of rents. Following public protests, the Government appointed a committee to consider the problem.

The Committee reported that de-control was not justified, hence the revised Bill published early this month, which retains rent control but allows certain increases in view of the fact that property owners have been permitted to raise rents by 100% in 14 years while the estimated cost of living has increase by 400% in the same period.

Cables in Brief

FOOD. — Meat and bacon rationing will end in the first half of July, ending all food rationing in Britain, it was announced in the House of Commons yesterday. Coal will remain the only rationed commodity.

ITALY. — The series of tactical strikes being organized by Communist-led trade unions moved yesterday to the heart of Italy's motor industry. In Tuesday's strikes in Rome, 516 demonstrators were detained.

Citrus Exports Over Three Million Cases

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — With the loading today of 50,000 cases of citrus at Haifa Port, a total of 3.3 million crates have been exported since the beginning of the season, it was learned from the Citrus Marketing Board here.

By the end of this month, the four million mark will be passed, and next month two million crates are to be sent abroad. The April figure is not yet known, but it is expected to be fairly high. (Last year's total export amounted to 5.3 million crates.)

The Citrus Marketing Board expressed satisfaction with the rate of despatch of fruit with the exception of exports to the Soviet Union. To date, 170,000 crates have been sent there, including 40,000 in the s.s. Kinneret, now on her way to Odessa.

She was the only ship which had travelled from here to Russia during the past two months, as the Russian port is ice-bound. A total of 600,000 crates is to be exported there, and the moment the weather thaws the fruit will be sent with all possible speed.

Meanwhile, of the half-a-million backlog of crates which had accumulated in the ports at the beginning of this week, 350,000 have already been loaded. By Sunday, it is expected that the remainder will be cleared and citrus picking on a normal scale will be resumed.

Diamond Probe Continues

LYDDA AIRPORT, Wednesday (ITIM). — Hanaya Katz, the El Al employee who is now being held in custody in connection with the investigation of the suspected smuggling from Israel of $100,000 in diamonds, until the story broke in New York maintained the fiction that his wife had flown to the U.S., it was discovered here at the investigation of his colleagues. Katz's sister-in-law, Ruth Hacohen, who was caught with the diamonds in New York last Thursday, used the free ticket which Katz had obtained for his wife.

There were no new developments today in the investigation, concerning a diamond smuggling ring, which was begun following Ruth Hacohen's arrest. Police expect that the facts will become clearer following the arrival of additional reports from the U.S.

10,000TH BABY

HAIFA, Wednesday. — The birth of the 10,000th baby in the Maternity Ward of the Rambam Hospital was celebrated by the staff and guests this evening.

The Maternity and Gynaecology Department, headed by Dr. A. Peretz, was opened five years ago.

£5,000 a Peep

CAIRO, Wednesday. — Bidders paid nearly £21,000 for 144 lots of European and American stamps at this morning's session here of an auction sale of ex-King Farouk's collection.

An extremely rare collection of Austrian obligations fetched £4,200, seven very rare British Guiana stamps realized £1,840; "cotton reels" were sold for £2,560. A single first stamp of this series was bought for £670.

Lt. Colonel Mahmoud Younes, chief confiscation officer of royal property, announced this morning that all those spending more than £5,000 at the auction will be allowed to view Farouk's "secret collection" of pornography. *(Reuter, UP)*

Headmaster Faints in Court On Hearing Police Charges

TEL AVIV, Wednesday (ITIM). — The 48-year-old headmaster of a secondary school in a nearby village fainted in the Magistrate's Court here today when he was remanded in custody for seven days on charges of indecent acts, illegal practice of medicine, assault and mailing of pornographic literature.

The police accused the headmaster of assaulting six youths and a girl, and, during 1953, attending medically to 14 persons without the necessary permit. On October 2, 1953, he sent two letters to Germany which contained considerable pornographic material, the police charged.

The Magistrate demanded that the name of the headmaster and the witnesses be withheld.

Judge A. Malhi, in the District Court this afternoon, ordered the release of the headmaster in IL.500 personal bond.

The judge accepted the argument of the headmaster's lawyer that there were no grounds for detaining his client, who, if held, would suffer grave personal damage since he was well known.

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Personal Notices

ABE and AYA COHEN
announce
the birth of a SON
Afikah, Tel Aviv. Feb. 15, 1954

A MEMORIAL MEETING
in honour of the late Hebrew teacher
Itzhak Reznikov (formerly Breslau)
will be held on the 10th Anniversary of his death in the hall of the Rehavia Secondary School, Rehavia, Jerusalem, tonight, at 8.

With deep sorrow we announce the death at the age of 72, on February 17, 1954, after a short illness of our dear husband, father, father-in-law and uncle
Mr. JULIUS JEKEL
The funeral will leave today at 1 p.m. from the Shaare Zedek Hospital, Jerusalem.
Under deepest sorrow:
Bernie and Alice Kirby (née Jekel), London
Hildegard Barney (née Jekel), Jerusalem.

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COMPETENT LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES SOUGHT

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THE illegal traffic in visas, exposed in an article on this page on Tuesday, is a particularly ugly form of trickery. Unscrupulous individuals, doing business as "travel agents" or "commission brokers," purport to be able to obtain for an exorbitant fee, visas which would otherwise be unobtainable. The public, which appears in this respect to be unusually gullible and naive, plays right into the hands of such swindlers. Instead of making direct application to the consulate concerned, the intending traveller, believing apparently that nothing can be done without the help of an "expert," allows himself to be made the victim of a mean and despicable fraud.

AN UGLY TRAFFIC

In recent weeks there have appeared in certain sections of the press entirely unwarranted attacks on the diplomatic and consular representatives of foreign countries, with more than a hint that there may be collusion between them and the "agents" who batten on public credulity. There has never been the slightest foundation for such charges, nor has any evidence ever been produced in support of them. It is highly regrettable that a body of honourable and conscientious officials should have been singled out for such baseless and irresponsible attack.

A particularly serious aspect of this sad business is its effect on Israel's international relations. It is the function of diplomats to act as the living link between nations. They are responsible for the day-to-day conduct of political, economic and cultural affairs, and above all for ensuring friendship and understanding between the countries they represent and the country to which they are accredited. To impute false charges against them is not merely to undermine the confidence in them of a public which has shown itself singularly credulous and naive, but to infuriate and estrange a body of men who cannot but feel indignant at having baseless aspersions cast at them.

It has for long been the practice of certain countries not to allow their consular officers to issue visas except on personal application by the intending traveller. The foreign diplomatic and consular missions in Israel have now resolved to apply this practice universally, and they cannot be blamed for doing so. This appears to be the only effective way in which they can protect themselves against misunderstanding and misrepresentation, and they are thereby also doing a service to the cause of good relations between their countries and Israel. If the general public is now to suffer some loss of time and convenience, it will be doing so only through the folly of many of its members. If the respectable travel agents are to be penalized, they will know that they are paying for the frauds of certain unscrupulous firms and individuals.

The diplomatic corps in Israel has a consistent record of distinguished service to the cause of international understanding. It is much to be hoped that we shall not again have to witness an irresponsible campaign against any of its members such as has cast its shadow on Israel's foreign relations in recent weeks. It is in this country's interest that the members of the diplomatic corps, who should be its honoured guests and friends, are not alienated by irresponsible and unfounded attacks on their integrity. Such attacks can only serve the interest of shady characters who seek private profit at the expense of the public good.

New Mid-East Shipping Line Formed in U.S.

NEW YORK, Wednesday (UP). — A British, a German and two Egyptian steamship companies have formed a new shipping line to be known as the American Mid-East Line. It will begin operations between the U.S. and the Middle East next month. According to T. J. Stevenson and Co., general agents here for the new organization, the line will begin with a schedule of one sailing a month, which may be increased to two a month later on.

The sailings will be between the Mexican Gulf and East Coast ports of the U.S. and points along the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Persian Gulf and Pakistan and India.

Electoral Reform

Right Way to Real Representation

By H. F. RA'ANAN

IT is now well over a year since Mapai and the General Zionists agreed in principle to amend the present electoral system; it was then decided that action should be taken within a few months to pass what has now become famous as the "per cent clause," aimed at preventing representation in the Knesset of all parties polling less than ten per cent of the popular vote.

Does the "four per cent" or "ten per cent clause" or any other proposal of this nature really do away with the main shortcomings of the present electoral law? To anyone familiar with the subject, the answer must be an unqualified negative.

The present Israel electoral system comes under the general heading of proportional representation; in fact, however, it is a most extreme, not to say unique, type of proportional representation. Many other countries practising the tsystem are divided into constituencies, and it is only within these constituencies that the seats are apportioned according to the vote polled by the competing parties. In Israel, there is no local representation of any sort. The whole country forms one single constituency; parties are free to put up lists of up to 120 names, the elector can express his preference for a party but not for a person and, as a result, candidates are elected in the order of preference established by their parties and not by the electorate. There is no personal ties whatsoever between the voter and the Member of Knesset who, consequently, is responsible to no one except his party.

Any list supported by a few hundred signatures may compete in the elections and, until now, the polling of one per cent of the popular vote has been sufficient to give a party representation in the Knesset. This has tended to exaggerate out of all proportion the political atomization of the country's life. Moreover, the inexperienced electorate has been badly confused by the vast number of parties appealing for its support. And the list system, as we have recently had occasion to note, can give rise to abuses.

Discourages Majority

The present system positively discourages strong government. In order to give the country one-party, as opposed to coalition government, the strongest single party would have to poll an absolute majority, i.e., more than 50% of the popular vote. Even in Britain, however, which enjoys the "two-party system", neither the Conservatives nor the Labour Party were able to poll over 50% during the past three elections, since a few per cent of the vote always went to smaller groups. In this country, where there are some four or five major groups in politics, an absolute majority for any one party is a most unlikely event.

These are only the outstanding faults of the Israel electoral law, not to mention such minor points as the absence of by-elections to test the mood of the electorate and the non-existence of local political traditions, which could only be fostered by some sort of local representation.

The present proposal of the coalition parties would raise the minimum proportion of the popular vote required for representation in the Knesset from one to 4.2 per cent. It would do nothing to amend any of the other major shortcomings of the present system.

For that purpose something much more imaginative and radical would be required. Some such solution can be found — without resorting to such extremes as introducing the British system of single - member constituencies which, in any case, is quite unsuitable in this country, where the traditions of a "two-party system" are utterly lacking.

The following plan might help to produce a suitable electoral system for this country:

No Constituencies

Israel would be divided into 20 constituencies returning six M.K.'s each and having an average population of some 80,000; the constituencies would, as far as possible, consist of natural units, such as Upper Galilee from Acre to Dan, the Negev from Gedera to Eilat, the Jezreel-Jordan-Kinneret Valley region, Upper Haifa, Lower Haifa, North Jerusalem, South Jerusalem, etc. Each constituency would thus be a natural political and economic unit, evolving its own traditions, while "gerrymandering" would be avoided.

Five of the six M.K.s returned by each constituency would be elected from party lists, according to the d'Hondt system of proportional representation, which tends to favour slightly the larger parties so that a list polling some 40-45% of the vote could gain three out of the five seats contested. Since there would be only five seats to be divided by proportional representation in each constituency, only the larger parties could secure mandates to the Knesset. Nevertheless, smaller parties would stand a fairer chance than under the "ten per cent clause", provided they achieved a certain following in one or two of the constituencies.

Only parties with at least three members in the Knesset would be permitted to put up lists; in order to discourage small parties from contesting constituencies in which they have following, each list would be required to pay a deposit of IL.1,000, which would be forfeited unless at least one of the candidates representing the list was elected in the constituency in question.

These provisions, however, would, not bar the way to new parties. The sixth member in each constituency would be elected on a personal basis, on the British example, treating the area as a single-member constituency, with the candidate who polled the largest number of votes gaining the seat in question. This sixth, personal, mandate in each constituency could be contested by any candidate who received the signatures of 1,000 electors (2%).

For the elector, this system would be exceedingly simple. He would go into the polling booth and, just as is the case now, would put into his voting envelope the Hebrew initial party list he wishes to support. He would then take a second voting slip, containing the names of the candidates contesting the constituency on a personal basis, and would tick off the name of the candidate he wishes to support. Votes cast for lists and votes cast for personal candidates would be counted separately.

This system would make single-party government possible, since the largest party, even without polling 50% of the popular vote, might capture an absolute majority of both the 100 list seats and the 20 personal mandates. Splinter parties would be eliminated and small parties generally discouraged. The voter in each constituency would have a personal, local representative and by-elections could be held whenever a member elected on a personal basis died or retired.

The Government, while controlling a stable majority, would be most sensitive to public opinion, since its majority would include members elected on a personal basis, in direct contact with the electorate.

Some such system, in line with the requirements and traditions of the country, would lead to political amalgamation rather than atomization, since only large groups could hope to survive over any length of time under its provisions.

New Tourist Service Opens

By a Special Correspondent

NEW YORK. — When Jacob Hilfer reached Palestine in 1934 he helped build roads. It was no more than right that, having built the roads, he should use them and he did, first as a truck driver then as a the owner-operator of a taxi.

Tel Aviv was his area but, in the tourist season, he devoted himself to roaming the country with a complement of visitors from Europe, South Africa, Canada, but mainly from the U.S. He got along well with the tourists and one of the travel agencies in Tel Aviv asked him to handle some of their clients. "I'd meet them at the airport... take them to a hotel... drive them around. They were under my care until they left the country," Mr. Hilfer said.

The driver-tourist guide — he was among the first to be licensed — is official guides — made many friends among his fares, particularly with the American visitors, and he began to see and understand the type of service that the American wants and expects. An idea developed in his mind — why shouldn't those tourists who had been to Israel set up an organization that would provide the right kind of service that they — and many others — would want?

With the visiting cards of a score of American tourists in his pocket, Mr. Hilfer arrived here, renewed acquaintanceships that had begun at Lydda Airport and ripened on the long drives to the Negev or Galilee. To his former fares, Mr. Hilfer outlined his project. The result was that over a dozen American businessmen joined him in floating a $150,000 concern, Israel Tourist Service Corporation.

H.Q. in New York

The only Israel tourist service with headquarters in New York, the Corporation has established offices at 106 Rehov Ha'Yarkon, from which a fleet of sight-seeing vehicles will operate. To date the company has purchased two buses, three cars, a station wagon, and a 12-passenger bus and the directors have decided to add two further buses to the fleet. Mr. Hilfer, who is vice-president and director of the corporation — Irving Jaffe is the President — obtained State of Israel recognition of the company as an "authorized investment" with the right to withdraw profits in foreign currency. Before a tourist leaves home he can arrange, through the network of travel agents to which the Israel Tourist Service Corporation is linked, for sight-seeing tours and other facilities.

Stating that plans were in the blue-print stage for the establishment of a European office, located in London, Mr. Hilfer predicted that 50,000 will visit Israel this year.... and "we're going to give then a 24-hour a-day service," he promises.

Readers' Letters

HONEST OFFICIALS

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — Corruption is a favourite topic nowadays. Some people and a few of our papers seem to take a perverse delight in digging into trifling cases and playing them up. As a sea-faring man who in the course of voyages to many parts of the world comes in contact with many port officials — police, customs, immigration — I can testify that the people here in our ports are very good indeed. In fact, they are so good that our captain, a non-Israeli, on his first visit to this country, remarked: "They are so serious and correct, it's almost abnormal."

There is a duty on apples, and the other day in Tel Aviv Port, taking out a small bag of apples — six to be exact — we were stopped by the customs man. We offered to pay duty. Nothing doing; the Cashier's office was closed and he wouldn't accept the money. We then made a reasonable suggestion: Take half the apples for yourself and let us go with the rest. He was polite but firm; the answer was "no." The paper bag was carefully sealed, the name of the owner and the ship was put on the parcel, which was locked up until it could be taken aboard.

In Haifa — to quote another of many instances — when the Customs officer came aboard to seal up our "Bonded Stores," the Captain passed by and said: "Give him a carton of cigarettes," the usual procedure in almost all ports. Another polite refusal; he would not even take one small pack.

All this proves nothing. But every story of a racket could be matched with a thousand of public servants who do their job and keep their hands clean.

But then, that wouldn't be a story.

Yours etc.,
LUTE WOLFF

Jerusalem, February 4.

ISRAEL-ARAB RELATIONS

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — Regarding the discussion in your Readers' Letters columns by Mr. Levy and Mr. Kousa on Israel-Arab relations (January 21 and February 1), it must be stated that the views expressed by Mr. Kousa are at best half truths.

Mr. Koussa's statement that "the betterment of the conditions of Israel's Arabs cannot but have favourable repercussions in Arab countries" is true. But when he says that "menacing Arab utterances are more in the nature of propaganda for home consumption" he is misleading us. The constant and increasing flow of such utterances is accompanied by hostile actions; this cannot fail to produce a situation favourable to the resumption of hostilities.

Yours, etc.,
CARL STEINWEG

Jerusalem, February 2.

NO EARTHQUAKE

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — With reference to the earthquake reportedly felt in Beersheba (*The Jerusalem Post*, February 4), we wish to clarify that no seismic activity has been recorded in or near Israel on the day mentioned in your information.

The seismographs at the Jerusalem and Safed Observatories detect regional tremors far below the limit of human perceptibility. An earthquake causing the fall of objects as described in your dispatch, is a major event which would probably be felt over the entire country.

False reports of earthquakes are fairly common and their causes range from jet planes to jitters. In this case the sandstorm prevailing over Beersheba at the time of the report may provide a clue to the confusion.

Yours, etc.,
C. LOMNITS
Seismological Observatory,
The Research Council of Israel

Jerusalem, February 8.

WOMEN SOLDIERS

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir,—Let me protest against the charges made against women soldiers by Rabbi B. Mendelsohn and David Forster, during the trial of Rabbi Amram Blau, as reported in *The Jerusalem Post* of February 9.

Our nation will not tolerate this smear of its daughters, many of whom sacrificed their lives for their people.

We trust our girls! It is the group represented by Rabbi Blau (that has openly demonstrated its hostility to the State of Israel that we do not trust.

Yours etc.,
K.B.

Tel Aviv, February 9.

3-D FILM

Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir,—None of the thousands of people who have seen the picture, "House of Wax," in our theatre has complained that the colour of the picture is distorted. Our fine mechanism for 3-D is most accurate and precise and is operated by experts.

The January 9 issue of the Motion Picture Herald, which is the most reputed trade paper in the U.S., wroter that "House of Wax" is the best 3-Dimensional picture so far released and is among the eight outstanding attractions during the year 1953, appreciated by the most discriminating cinema-goers and reviewers.

Yours, etc.,
B. SILBERSTEIN
Manager, Edison Theatre

Jerusalem, February 11.

Critic's Reply

Like "The New York Times" critic, I still feel the "House of Wax" was most disappointing.

FRANCO

The American Scene

Too Much Food in U.S.

By ALASTAIR BUCHAN

WASHINGTON, (OFNS). — THE man with the least enviable job in Washington today is Mr. Ezra Taft Benson, President Eisenhower's Secretary of Agriculture. He is faced with the problem of storing a further surplus of grain and butter, the present stocks of which have already eaten up almost all the available storage space in this huge country. And it looks as if he is going to receive little help from Congress in solving his problems.

When the United States was the main Allied granary during the war and the immediate post-war years, a system of direct incentives to agricultural production was used to produce crops far in excess of anything the Americans could consume. The prices of the main crops — wheat, maize, cotton, tobacco, rice and peanuts — were supported first at 100 per cent and then at 90 per cent of parity; parity being a formula whereby the price a farmer receives for his crop is related to the prices he pays for seed, fertilizer and machinery. This kept American production, but also American prices, high, with the result that as other countries recovered and turned to cheaper sources of supply from the British Commonwealth, from South America, and from their own domestic production, a surplus of American crops began to accumulate which the Government was obliged to purchase and store.

The principal surpluses are of grains. Already storage capacity for 200,000 tons is full to overflowing. Unless 1954 produces an unusually bad harvest it will be necessary to find storage space for another 13m. tons this year of which space for only six million tons exists.

Every sort of expedient has been tried: 750,000 tons are already stored in war-surplus cargo ships tied up in various Atlantic coast ports. Officials of the Department of Agriculture are now scouring the country to find abandoned army barracks and aircraft hangars. Even vacant garages and abandoned cinemas are being considered. "And if that doesn't work," said one official, "the farmers will have to dump the stuff in their bathtubs."

Storage Cost

The cost of the existing storage programme has already reached $500,000 dollars a day, and the value of the Government surplus is expected to reach $4,500m. by the middle of this year.

Mr. Benson has from the start advocated the only policy which makes sense under these circumstances: to introduce flexible price supports for the basic crops, so that the Government can drastically reduce the support price — and thereby the market price — for any crop where production exceeds domestic demand. But he has reckoned without the strength of the farm vote in Congress. Over the last decade the American farmer has come to regard a high support price as normal, and anyone who tried to induce him to grow less by lowering it is his enemy. As it is, general over-production has led to a 17 per cent decline in farm prices over the past three years.

With a Congressional election looming in November, the Democrats see in Mr. Benson's proposals an excellent stick with which to beat the governing Republican Party. The Republicans in Congress — who have a majority of only three in the House of Representatives — are reluctant to do anything to alienate the farmer. Consequently Mr. Benson is being urged to find ways of reducing the surplus instead of concentrating on its cause — which is over-production encouraged by high price supports.

The Government has recommended to Congress that $1,000m. be extended as grants to needy foreign countries over the next three years to enable them to purchase American agricultural surpluses. There is a scheme afoot for using the surplus food in barter for strategic raw materials, and for virtually giving it away to the unemployed. Another suggestion which has the support of the farmers is to let distributors give away butter for one cent per lb. with every lb. of butter bought at the present market price.

One difficulty about any scheme for giving away American surpluses to foreign countries is that it provokes bitter protests from Canada and other countries whose overseas trade depends on sales of wheat to Europe and Asia, and which solved their problem of adjusting agricultural production to the international market several years ago when the United States did not.

I do not envy Mr. Benson, but he will not have my sympathy if I catch any officials taking the measurements of my garage or bathroom.

Artmobile

A five-ton trailer truck has been cruising up and down the back roads of the State of Virginia for the past few months on a most unusual errand. It is an "artmobile" belonging to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. In its air-conditioned interior there is a small collection of magnificent Dutch and Flemish pictures, including Pieter Breughel's "Kermass," hung like a small art gallery. It has been touring all the little towns and villages of the Tidewater and the Blue Ridge, whose inhabitants have never seen an old master before.

It is driven by a member of the museum staff, who, to a recording of harpsichord music, explains the pictures to the back-country crowd collected in the village square.

Husband for Sale

Among the classified advertisements of the "Weekly News" of Kentwood, Louisiana, there appeared last week an offer by an anonymous lady to sell her husband for $75,000 because he was a "poor provider." She was deluged with facetious replies, but only one of them contained a financial offer — $5,000 for the unwanted husband. It required a guarantee that the money could be refunded if the husband proved unsatisfactory.

KEEPING POSTED

MANY readers have reported that they were sincerely disappointed about the strike that failed. Many had visions of piling onto holiday trains, filling trucks with benches and driving merrily past dejected little groups of bus drivers. One elderly gentleman we know even sent off his old push-bike to be repaired just in order to "show them bus folk." There is little doubt that the weight of public opinion is heavily against the cooperatives. There are few who really begrudge them their salaries, but many who begrudge them their service. We have never ceased to be surprised at Eshed's conspicuous lack of public relations consciousness. This week we published an Eshed reply to a complaint that a woman had been put off a bus when it was discovered that her previously purchased ticket did not cover the new fare, and that she was without money. But we didn't print the last paragraph of the reply that said that the complaint reminded the Eshed management of the stories connected by the *fellaheen* of former times. We can tell it now as Eshed has tendered something of an apology, albeit unwittingly. The woman who made the complaint wrote to us yesterday that she had been overwhelmed by the courtesy of a ticket collector on a Chausson bus who had offered her his seat when he noticed that she was keeping her feet only with difficulty, and who continued to collect his fares standing up. We would like to recommend to Eshed's Information Section, if they have one, that this unknown gentleman be appointed to answer any similar letters and complaints directed towards the cooperatives in future.

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ISRAEL homes are not usually very large, and a good many family celebrations must perforce be celebrated outside the home and away from the family hearth (or naft stove). Both atmosphere and money are lost, but that, it seems, is not all. A well known painter was recently invited to a bar mitzvah in a hotel. He attended the proceedings, proffered his congratulations and offered his gift:

one of his paintings. Suddenly a friend appeared to take him to the ..... bar mitzvah. The truth was painfully clear... he had attended another bar mitzvah in another section of the hotel. He rushed back to reclaim his picture, but, too late! A picture? No one had seen any picture. There was a Keren Kayemet calendar in the corner... The painter dropped himself miserably to the right bar mitzvah and tried to console himself with a bottle.

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"THE Jewish Observer and Middle East Review," a London contemporary, has become overexcited lately at having achieved an Audit Bureau of Circulations rating, which is a very good thing for a Jewish weekly newspaper to have. But it is somewhat reminiscent of the self-swelling bullfrog of the fable to see that periodical seeking to add to its importance by denigrating others. In a paragraph published last Friday the "Observer" says, *inter alia*: "only this week the Audit Bureau of Circulations certified that during the second half of 1953 the average net weekly sale of the "Jewish Observer and Middle East Review" was 15,029—rather more than that of *The Jerusalem Post*, and about twice as large as the circulation of Hebrew dailies..."

This statement is rather peculiar. One does not compare weekly sales with daily sales. In any case the "Observer" has underestimated the J.P. figure, which taken on a weekly basis would be in six figures, and there are Hebrew dailies with bigger sales of course. Nor does the writer reveal how the net sale of the "Observer" was suddenly

obtained: by incorporating the J.N.F. News, the house organ of the J.N.F. and J.P.A. of Britain, which subscribe to the weekly en bloc, and who form many thousands of its major subscribers.

•

CHAP we know sadly told us of a friend who had passed away in London at the early age of 53, and even more sadly noted that he was but five years his junior. It was clearly time for him to put all his affairs in order. Intrigued, we asked him just how one went about all this and what important step he would take first. "Well," he said determinedly, "I'm going to put all the stamps in my Histadrut booklet."

Today's contributors include: M. Falbish and M. Hirsch of Haifa; and C.P.D. of Jerusalem.

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